

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0004] with the following amended paragraph:

[0004] Oracle provides a method of querying data at a point-in-time (Flashback Query, Oracle9i Application Developer's Guide – Fundamentals, [[pp. 7-34]] p. 7-43). The Flashback Query allows the selective rollback of a portion of a database with some limitations. For instance, one limitation is that the undo space of the database needs to be managed by an automatic undo management to use this feature effectively. The undo segment consumes a lot more disk space than the related data rows do in their related tablespaces. Thus, the availability of the storage capacity will limit how far back in the time the Flashback can query the database. Another limitation is that the specified period of time (*i.e.*, undo retention period) in which the Flashback can query back into the past is the same for all of the tables. Specifically, Oracle uses a single initialization parameter (*i.e.*, UNDO_RETENTION) to control how far into the past a user may query the database. Moreover, the user does not have a choice of assigning a different undo retention period for each different table. Further, unimportant tables may use a lot more of the undo segment space than do the more important tables. When the undo space is full, some unexpired undo spaces will be reused such that the data related to the reused undo space can not be flashbacked to the retention time.